

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 550

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR BF US MILI
SUBJ: FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

1. APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THIS AFTERNOON'S
NEGOTIATING SESSION EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER
FROM MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY. EMBASSY AND NEGOTIATING TEAM
WILL COMMENT ON THE LETTER -- REPEATED IN ITS ENTIRETY --
BY SEPTTEL.

2. QUOTE:EXCELLENCY:
RECEIPT IS ACKNOWLEDTED OF YOUR LETTER DATED
FEBRUARY 21, 1978 WHICH WAS IN RESPONSE TO MY LETTER TO YOU OF
THE 12 JANUARY 1978.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE BAHAMAS THAT IT WAS THE UNEQUIVOCAL PROPOSAL OF YOUR GOVERNMENT
MADE FROM 1973 TO 1977 THAT ANY AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN OUR
RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE FOR A PERIOD OF 15 YEARS EXPIRING
ON JULY 10, 1988, A DATE WHICH BY SIMPLE CALCULATION RELATES BACK
TO THE 10 JULY, 1973, BAHAMAS INDEPENDENCE DAY. IT NOW MUST BE
VIEWED WITH SURPRISE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MAKES A NEW PROPOSAL
CONTRADICTING ITS FORMER PROPOSAL, WHEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR
RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS CAN BE FORESEEN THIS YEAR, THAT THE
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AGREEMENT BE FOR 15 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF SIGNATURE WHICH MEANS
THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT PROPOSES AT LEAST A 20-YEAR AGREEMENT FROM
10 JULY, 1973. THIS I REGRET IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO MY GOVERNMENT.

I NOTE YOUR COMMENT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED NO
RESPONSE TO YOUR DOCUMENTED POSITION AS REFERRED TO IN MY LETTER OF
THE 12 JANUARY, 1978. THIS IS TRUE SO FAR AS THE SUGGESTED TERMS

AND CONDITIONS OF THE OPERATING RIGHTS, FACILITIES, STATUS OF FORCES AND LEASE AGREEMENTS ARE CONCERNED. BUT, I CANNOT AGREE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE WITH REGARD TO CONSIDERATION FOR THE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INNUMERABLE MEETINGS BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE AMBASSADORS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT SINCE 1973 AND AS RECENTLY AS 1977 WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TODMAN VISITED NASSAU IN DECEMBER.

I HAVE NOTED YOUR COMMENT THAT "MY GOVERNMENT, CONSEQUENTLY, LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATING SESSION IN EXPECTATION OF RECEIVING AT THAT TIME THE RESPONSE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT" WHICH I TAKE TO REFER TO THE RESPONSES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS TO THE TERMS IN PARTICULAR OF THE OPERATING RIGHTS, STATUS OF FORCES, FACILITIES AND LEASE AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ALREADY AGREED FORMULA FOR THESE RESUMED INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS.

HAVING REGARD TO THE ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE EXPLORED TODAY AND TOMORROW BY OUR RESPECTIVE TEAMS, IT IS LIKELY THAT IN THE TIME AVAILABLE, NO MORE WILL BE POSSIBLE THAN TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON THE TERMS OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

SOME TIME AGO, YOUR GOVERNMENT PROPOSED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASES AGREEMENTS "TAKE PLACE ON A BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS". AT THAT TIME IT WAS ALSO INDICATED THAT YOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT WISHED "TO DEPART FROM THE PRACTICE WE HAVE FOLLOWED HERETOFORE OF SENDING DELEGATIONS FROM WASHINGTON HEADED BY A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL OFFICIAL FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH BAHAMIAN DELEGATIONS HEADED AT A SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL".

I HAVE NOW SEEN THE MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATION OF WHICH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE SHELTON IS CHAIRPERSON. WITH RESPECT I AGREE WITH THE COURSE OF ACTION WHICH YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW HAVING REGARD TO THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE DISCUSSION WHICH WE HAVE AGREED WILL TAKE PLACE.

I SUGGEST THAT AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AFTER TOMORROW YOU AND I REVIEW THE MATTERS WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY OUR RESPECTIVE TEAMS BY WHICH TIME THE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WILL HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE EASIER.

I HAVE TO HONOUR TO BE, SIR, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT --
P. L. ADDERLEY, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS UNQUOTE
SCHWARTZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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